



**Ferdous International foundation (FIF)**



**Global Health and Security Consultants (GHSC)**

**Statement from: Ferdous International foundation (FIF) and Global Health and Security Consultants (GHSC)**

**Mr President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, participants to the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin weapons Convention.**

Let me express my sincere gratitude for providing me the opportunity as the Executive director of Ferdous International foundation FIF (1) and its partner Global Health and Security Consultants GHSC (2) to participate and address in this very important event.

We all know that Communicable Diseases caused by infectious agents continue to be the major cause of illness, incapacity and death among human beings and animals. Unfortunately many developing countries involved in the outbreak of infectious diseases, lack efficient capability to respond properly and effectively to such outbreaks.

Moreover, poor hygienic and safety conditions in hospitals and laboratories as well as lack of knowledge of safe handling and transport of infectious materials have become major source of dissemination of dangerous pathogens into the personnel, environment and consequently endangering life of the people.

On the other hand there is an increasing concern about the possible misuse of dual use pathogens and toxins and development of biological weapons as a means of causing harm, incapacitation or death in a population which if not managed properly, may end up with high consequences in the communities.

In brief, dangerous pathogens may cause risk to public health through:

- Natural outbreaks
- Poor laboratory and clinical conditions

- Careless handling of infectious materials containing dangerous pathogens and
- Deliberate misuse of such materials

This issue has been more elaborated in the book “**Improving Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention**” published by the UNOD and kindly edited by **Mr Piers Millet** under the chapter 25 entitled "**Reducing Biological Risks by Building Capacity in Health Security**".

Therefore, FIF and GHSC have given their first and foremost priority in assisting these countries to strengthen their national capacity to adequately prevent and respond to the threats caused by biological risks through implementation of a **National Biological Risk Management Programme (NBM)** which includes inter alia:

- Establishment a national multi stakeholder committee consisting of public health, agriculture(veterinary), environment, defence, foreign affairs, to manage, monitor and evaluate implementation of the Programme
- Situation and gap analysis/ Assessment of present capacity
- Development of the implementation plan
- Establishment of national regulation and legislation
- National policy and strategic planning
- National standards and guidelines for biorisk practices
- Establishment of an early warning system for disease outbreaks and biological incidents
- Awareness raising among public health communities of such risks within their territory as well as training of decision makers, laboratory directors and experts
- Upgrading physical and technical structures in terms of building, equipment and materials.
- Field exercise and test of biological incident
- Monitoring and evaluation

Therefore implementation of such programme in particular in the absence of a universally agreed instrument, will to a large extent facilitate the implementation of the BTWC. Moreover, we know that 194 member states of WHO are committed to implement the International Health Regulations (IHR) by 2016 the latest. Therefore implementation of such programme will also be in the line with several articles of IHR in strengthening national capacity to prevent and respond to public health event of international concern (PHEIC).

More details of this programme will be discussed in a meeting organized by FIF and GHSC on 16 December at 9 am to which participation of all delegations is highly appreciated.

I have already conducted this programme in one of the BWC State Parties in the Middle East through the funding kindly provided by the European Union which proved to be very successful. The outcome of this project will be presented in the above meeting. We are also negotiating with a funding agency to establish this programme in a State Party in Africa. One major criterion among others, is the country's compliance with the objectives of the BTWC.

We strongly believe it is the responsibility of all member states in particular those with financial resources as well as funding agencies to help the low resource and developing countries in implementation of such programme towards establishment of national capacity to prevent and respond adequately and effectively to biological risks.

This should be our strategy: **Think Globally, Plan Nationally**

Mr President, thank you again and I wish you all success for very fruitful discussion during this Review Conference.



- 1- Ferdous International Foundation (FIF) is a humanitarian organization based in Geneva, Switzerland whose mission is purely to provide assistance to low resource communities regardless of race, nationality, and religion, with no political borders. We tend to value their high potential and strengthen their present capacities with the aim to meet their needs and improve their standard of living. This can only be done in close collaboration with our partners, donors, and funding agencies as well as full involvement of relevant authorities from the recipient countries through:

- Assessment and evaluation of present capacities
- Needs and gaps analysis
- Development, preparation and implementation of assistance programs and projects
- Provision and raising necessary funds
- Monitoring and post implementation evaluation of the projects

You may find more information on FIF objectives and activities through our web site, [www.ferdous.ch](http://www.ferdous.ch) and a small catalogue provided on your desk.

2- Global Health and Security Consultants (GHSC), [info@global-consultant.org](mailto:info@global-consultant.org) is also a non-governmental entity whose main objective is to establish a directory of high level experts from different part of the world who are active on different aspects of health and security including mainly capacity building in developing countries in managing public health risks. In other word, it tries to make a proper and speedy link between these experts and those governments, institutions and NGOs who need their expertise. So far, there are more than 60 renowned professional experts in our list and more are joining. There is a questionnaire through which they will indicate how and to what extent they would like to be involved in this activity.

The GHSC plan is to help developing countries in managing biological risks through the following activities:

- Development and organization of training courses and workshops on Biosafety and Biosecurity, Packaging and Transport of dangerous pathogens and biological risk assessment and Train the Trainers
- Consultation on different aspects of health and security including, establishment and construction of research, diagnostic and production laboratories, supply and validation of their equipment
- Development and implementation of National Biorisk Management Programmes, Biological risk assessment
- Monitoring and evaluation of health and security projects